

## Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ARA-14 EUR-12 ISO-00 SIG-03 MMO-04 CIAE-00  
DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05  
PA-02 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 HA-05 /108 R

DRAFTED BY AF/P:BARUSSELL:ADR  
APPROVED BY AF/P:RWHOLLIDAY  
-----097606 230843Z /11

R 222333Z MAR 78  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMEMBASSY BONN  
USINT HAVANA  
ALL AFRICAN DIPLOMATIC POSTS  
XMT AMEMBASSY FREETOWN  
AMEMBASSY LOME  
AMEMBASSY BANGUI  
AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU  
AMEMBASSY LAGOS  
AMEMBASSY ACCRA  
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA  
AMEMBASSY DAKAR  
AMEMBASSY KIGALI  
AMEMBASSY CONAKRY  
AMEMBASSY MBABANE  
AMEMBASSY NIAMEY  
AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA  
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT  
AMEMBASSY ANTANANARIVO  
AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA  
AMEMBASSY LILONGWE  
AMEMBASSY BAMAKO  
AMEMBASSY BISSAU  
AMEMBASSY GABORONE

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E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT:DEPARTMENT OF STATE PRESS BRIEFING, MARCH 22, 1978

FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE NOON BRIEFING, MARCH 22, 1978:

Q: IN HIS INAUGURAL ADDRESS, PRESIDENT CARTER SAID, "OUR COMMITMENT TO HUMAN RIGHTS MUST BE ABSOLUTE." IN VIEW OF THIS, AND THIS MEMORANDUM WHICH YOU ARE AWARE OF, IF THE PRESIDENT DURING HIS FORTHCOMING TRIP IGNORES THE RACIAL RESTRICTIONS ON VOTING AND PROPERTY OWNERSHIP THAT YOUR LIBERIAN DESK ORIGINALLY REPORTED ARE STILL IN ARTICLE V OF LIBERIA'S CONSTITUTION, HOW CAN THIS BE REGARDED AS AN ABSOLUTE COMMITMENT TO HUMAN RIGHTS?

A: LES, I THINK YOU OUGHT TO ASK THAT QUESTION AT THE WHITE HOUSE. YOU ARE TALKING ABOUT A PRESIDENTIAL TRIP, AND YOU ARE MENTIONING THE PRESIDENT AND HIS INAUGURAL SPEECH. I REALLY HAVEN'T --

Q: THE REASON I ASKED, JOHN, IS BECAUSE YOUR LIBERIAN DESK PREPARED A REPORT, AND ORIGINALLY THEY MENTIONED THIS RACIAL RESTRICTION, SEGREGATION; AND SOMEONE IN THE STATE DEPARTMENT DELETED IT. AND I INQUIRED ABOUT THIS, BUT TOM RESTON JUST ABSOLUTELY REFUSED TO INQUIRE AS TO WHY THIS VERY IMPORTANT RACIAL SEGREGATION WAS DELETED FROM THE REPORT. THAT IS WHY I RAISE IT AT THE STATE DEPARTMENT. I WILL CERTAINLY RAISE IT AT THE WHITE  
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HOUSE, BUT I JUST WONDER IF YOU COULD GIVE US SOME CLARIFICATION AS TO WHY THIS WAS DELETED FROM YOUR REPORT TO THE CONGRESS, YOUR STATE DEPARTMENT REPORT. DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA, OR WOULD YOU BE WILLING TO INQUIRE?

A: NO, LES, I DON'T THINK THAT IT WAS DELETED.

Q: IT WAS. THE LIBERIAN DESK SAID THAT IT WAS DELETED. COULD YOU TAKE THE QUESTION, JOHN?

A: I WILL TRY TO GET YOU AN ANSWER.

Q: ANYTHING NEW ON THE HORN OF AFRICA, JOHN, IN TERMS OF NUMBERS OF TROOPS?

A: ON THE HORN, NO. I HAVE CHECKED AGAIN THE EVER-PRESENT QUESTION ABOUT CUBANS IN ERITREA, AND THE SITUATION IS THE SAME. WE KNOW THERE ARE CUBAN MILITARY ADVISERS IN ERITREA, BUT CANNOT CONFIRM THE PRESENCE OF CUBAN TROOPS.

Q: THE FIGURES ARE STILL THE SAME?

A: THE FIGURES ARE STILL THE SAME.

ON DICK MOOSE, HE IS REMAINING IN SOMALIA AN ADDITIONAL DAY TO CONTINUE THE TALKS. OF COURSE I CAN'T DETAIL THE NATURE OF THE TALKS THAT HE IS HAVING WITH PRESIDENT SIAD OTHER THAN TO SAY THAT THEY ARE USEFUL, AND THAT IS THE EXTENT OF WHAT I CAN TELL YOU ABOUT DICK'S ADVENTURES AT THE MOMENT.

Q: HE IS STILL GOING TO SAUDI ARABIA?

A: YES, AS FAR AS I KNOW, HE IS.

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Q: WILL HE BE BACK ON SATURDAY?

A: THE LAST I HEARD WAS PROBABLY FRIDAY.  
VANCE

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** POLITICAL SUMMARIES, POLITICAL SITUATION, BRIEFING MATERIALS  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 22 mar 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
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**Disposition Comment:**  
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**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** DEPARTMENT OF STATE PRESS BRIEFING, MARCH 22, 1978 FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE NOON BRIEFING, MARCH 22, 1978  
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